

Application No.: 10/083,568

Docket No.: A8130.0078/P078

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A ribbed suture anchor formed by a process comprising the steps of:

placing at least one piece of suture in a mold;

molding a ~~ribbed~~ suture anchor body around the suture by delivering an uncured polymer into the mold, the suture anchor body comprising a plurality of adjacent truncated cones and a round cylindrical drive head at a proximal end; and

causing the polymer to cure.

2. (currently amended) The ribbed suture anchor of claim 1, wherein the ~~suture anchor body has a proximal end,~~ and the suture forms a loop outside the proximal end of the suture anchor body.

3. (currently amended) A method of producing an insert-molded ribbed suture anchor, the method comprising the steps of:

placing at least one piece of suture in a mold;

molding a ~~ribbed~~ suture anchor body around the suture by delivering an uncured polymer into the mold, the mold being arranged and configured to produce ribs comprising adjacent truncated cones and a round cylindrical drive head; and

causing the polymer to cure.

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4. (previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the ribbed suture anchor is formed at least partially from bioabsorbable material.

5. (previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the suture is placed in the mold so as to form a loop at the proximal end of the ribbed suture anchor.

6. (currently amended) A surgical method comprising the steps of:

forming a hole in bone;

advancing without turning ~~installing~~ an insert molded ribbed, non-threaded suture anchor into the hole; and

securing tissue to the insert molded ribbed suture anchor.

7. (currently amended) A method of surgical tissue plication comprising the steps of:

plicating a section of tissue with a length of suture;

preparing a hole in bone near the plicated tissue;

loading a leg of the length of suture through an eyelet of an insert molded ribbed suture anchor;

positioning the ribbed suture anchor on a plication driver, the leg of the length of suture exiting through a slot in the side of the plication driver; and

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advancing without turning installing the insert molded ribbed, non-threaded suture anchor into the hole.

8. (currently amended) A plication driver for a suture anchor, the driver comprising:

an enclosed [[a]] cannulated shaft having a proximal end and a distal end;

a cannulated handle attached to the proximal end of the shaft;

a round cylindrical recess formed in the distal end of the shaft; and

a slot formed in a wall of the enclosed cannulated shaft at the distal end of the shaft, the slot opening into the shaft cannula and being continuous with the recess formed in the distal end of the shaft.

9. (currently amended) An insert-molded anchor assembly comprising:

a hand driver having a cannulated shaft with an open recess on an end of the shaft; and

an insert molded ribbed suture anchor comprising an anchor body molded around suture positioned in the recess on the end of the shaft, the anchor body comprising a plurality of adjacent truncated cones and a round cylindrical drive head as a proximal end.

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10. (previously presented) The insert-molded anchor assembly of claim 9, further comprising a slot formed in a wall of the shaft, the slot being continuous with the recess formed in the distal end of the shaft.

11. (currently amended) A plication driver for a suture anchor, the driver comprising:

an enclosed [[a]] cannulated shaft having a proximal end and a distal end;
a cannulated handle attached to the proximal end of the shaft;
a round cylindrical recess formed in the distal end of the shaft; and
a distally open-ended slot formed as a narrow, elongate opening through a wall of the shaft adjacent the recess and opening into the shaft cannula.

12. (previously presented) The plication driver of claim 11, wherein the slot is continuous with the recess formed in the distal end of the shaft.

13. (previously presented) The plication driver of claim 11, wherein a closed end of the slot is located along the shaft proximal to the recess.

14. (previously presented) The plication driver of claim 11, wherein the slot is formed axially along the wall.

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15. (new) The ribbed suture anchor of claim 1, wherein the drive head is tapered.
16. (new) The method of claim 3, wherein the drive head is tapered.
17. (new) The insert-molded anchor assembly of claim 9, wherein the drive head is tapered.
18. (new) The ribbed suture anchor of claim 1, wherein a distal end of the anchor body is a truncated cone.
19. (new) The method of claim 3, wherein a distal end of the anchor body is a truncated cone.
20. (new) The insert-molded anchor assembly of claim 9, wherein a distal end of the anchor body is a truncated cone.